Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

Montana State Library
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VOL. 15 No. 1 January/February 1986

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

The Library Development Program is expanding at the State Library. Headed by Sheila Cates, the Program is also staffed by John Thomas and Howard Morris, who will split their time between Library Development and Reference. Kathy McChesney-Lape joins the staff as the Program's secretary.

In its expanded role, Library Development hopes to provide greater service to public and other libraries throughout Montana. Services in consulting, continuing education, collection development, library automation, library trustees and public information are some of the areas that will be explored by the Program.

At the December meeting of the State Library Commission in Helena, Mary Hudspeth was named chairperson of the Commission. She replaces Dr. Henry McClernan of Butte in that position. C. E. "Abe" Abramson of Missoula was named vice-chair. Mrs. Hudspeth has many ties in Glendive, Montana and one of her many goals on the commission is to see that eastern Montanans' needs are represented.

KELLOGG GRANT AWARDED TO MONTANA

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has announced the awarding of a $1.7 million grant to Montana State University to provide better life-long learning opportunities for rural residents. The grant will focus on demonstration sites in Hamilton and Libby, with cooperation between the Montana State Library, local libraries, public schools and county extension agents.

The Kellogg Grant to Montana is part of a four-year $4.1 million multi-state award provided to Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. The funds will be used to develop new courses, programs and information services for rural residents.

State Librarian, Sara Parker, has noted that the grant emphasizes the potential for libraries to serve all the information needs in small communities. The project will make use of modern-day communicating technologies to span the distances in western states. It intends to demonstrate that educational opportunities can be expanded for adults in rural areas. Leaders in Hamilton and Libby have been working closely with MSU and the State Library during the past several years to develop the Kellogg Grant. A staff member to be hired at the State Library will help administer this large project.

MLA TO MEET IN KALISPELL

The Montana Library Association will hold its annual conference, April 30th - May 3rd at the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell. The theme of the conference is "Kaleidoscope 86; the Images we Project".

On Wednesday, April 30th, there will be an all-day Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) workshop on "Your Management Capabilities" led by Maureen Sullivan from the Yale University Library. Also on Wednesday, beginning in the afternoon and continuing into the evening, will be a workshop on multitype library cooperation. Anne Marie Falsone, Colorado Assistant Commissioner of Education, will be the keynote speaker for the workshop. Thursday, May 1st, Continuing Education workshops will be held on such topics as cataloging, job stress, childrens' services, censorship and public relations, to name only a few.

Exhibitors will be present on Friday May 3rd. The two main speakers at MLA will be Richard Roeder, former history professor at MSU, who will speak at the Friday luncheon and Dorothy Patent from Missoula, a writer of childrens' science books, who will speak at the Saturday luncheon.

Information packets on the MLA conference will be mailed around March 1st to all members and to all school and public libraries in the state. If you believe you will not receive an information packet and would like to, contact:

Karen Fischer, President
Montana Library Assoc.
Renne Library
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
(994-5301)

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

$11,093 has been cut from the State Library's budget based on Governor Schwinden's recent instructions to state agencies to cut their budgets by 2%. This loss of such funds has impacted a variety of areas: travel by the State Library Commission and State Library Staff will be limited -- fewer Commission members will be attending Legislature Day in Washington, DC; Montana may not have a representative at the Public Library Association Conference in St. Louis; the State Librarian cancelled attendance at ALA Midwinter where recruitment for Alene Cooper's replacement was scheduled. Secretarial service is affected. One staff member is going on maternity leave and there are now no funds available to hire a temporary replacement. This means writing materials may be late in reaching libraries. A reduction in the online search budget for state agencies is another victim of the cuts. Money for searches will be exhausted before the end of the year.

At this time no cuts have been made in institutional library services, services to the blind and physically handicapped, or in online searching for public libraries. However, indications are that additional cuts in general fund monies may still be coming which will result in more areas being affected.

A reduction in state general fund monies is not the only loss of funds anticipated by the State Library and libraries in Montana. If Gramm-Rudman is enacted, it is projected Montana will lose approximately $13,000 in FY '86 LSCA monies. 1987 predictions are that LSCA will be cut by 28%. If this happens, Montana could lose over $139,000.

President Reagan's budget request to Congress has also proposed rescinding FY '86 LSCA Titles II and VI funds, which are the public library construction money and library literacy programs. Congress has the opportunity to restore the funds if they act within the next 45 days, otherwise the recission is automatic.

The greatest loss in terms of total dollars appears to be in Revenue Sharing funds. It is anticipated Montana's local public libraries will lose approximately $280,000 in Revenue Sharing monies.

A copy of the Blacktail Mission Statement, summarizing the goals of the Montana State Library Commission, is enclosed.

RSVP Volunteers, Judy Hames, Ailene Bond, Mae Cottrill and Caroline Roberts, relax after a day of processing talking book orders. Approximately 6,500 orders were filled the first two weeks of December.

Library Clerk, Jeff Hilger, stands beside approximately 2,771 talking books and talking book machines sent out on December 12th.

AUTOMATION COMMITTEE PROVIDES HELP

The Automation Committee of the Montana State Library Commission is available to help libraries with their automation needs. Whether the subject is microcomputers, circulation systems, WLN access or online catalogs, the Committee is willing to help and advise groups on automation. For further information, contact Library Development at the State Library (444-3115).

AROUND THE STATE

On January 11th, the Bozeman Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library co-sponsored an inaugural gala for the city's new mayor, Judy Mathre. Proceeds from the gala, attended by 300 at the Baxter Hotel, went to the public library.

A new bookmobile is in operation at the Missoula Public Library. Funded by monies from Missoula County, Burlington Northern, the Altrusa Club, and the Friends of the Library, it will travel to 9 locations throughout Missoula County. The bookmobile will carry a microfiche catalog of the main library, allowing rural users access to the main library's complete collection.

A Health Information Center has been established at the Billings Deaconess Hospital. Individuals and libraries from throughout the state may call the Deaconess Health Information Center for information on a health topic. Further information can be obtained by writing:
Billings Deaconess Hosp.
P.O. Box 2547
Billings, MT 59103
or call toll free:
1-800-252-1246

The University of Alabama Graduate School of Library Service is offering graduate assistantships to residents of each state that does not have an ALA accredited library school. These assistantships, one of which is reserved for a Montana resident, will waive out-of-state tuition and 50% of in-state tuition in addition to a stipend. For further information, write:

James D. Ramer, Dean
The University of Alabama
Graduate School of
Library Service
Univesity, AL 35486
(205) 348-4610

The Helena-Area Health Science Libraries Consortium (HAHSLC) has published a bibliography of materials relating to "Suicide in Children and Adolescents". Copies are available through the reference department at the State Library.

The Blackfeet Community College Library in Browning is discarding its Essay and General Literature (1981-85) and P.A.I.S. (1982-85) indexes and is interested in receiving in exchange volumes of the Social Science, Education, Biological and Agricultural, and Cumulative Book Indexes. For further information, contact librarian Gordon Hills, 338-7325.

The Lewis & Clark Library in Helena now has 3 public access catalog terminals. Full MARC records are stored on the library's computer and the public has access to the information by author, title, subject and call number. Plans are in the works for outside access through personal computers so that library users may soon be able to access the public library's catalog from their own home.

Sylvia Minton has begun her work as Director of the Glasgow Public Library and Coordinator of the Golden Plains Federation. A native of North Carolina, Sylvia comes to Glasgow from her position as director of the public library in Mitchell, South Dakota.

She received her M.L.S. from the University of South Florida and has worked in community college, as well as public libraries. She is interested in collection development, cooperation among federations in the state, and a books by mail project that is underway in the Golden Plains Federation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The American Library Association has established a national library trustee organization. Local public library boards can, for a fee, become a part of the American Library Trustee Association's Affiliation Program that will provide helpful information for local trustees. Information on the program can be gained by writing to:
ALTA
American Library Assoc.
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

The LSCA Title II application packet that was recently mailed (1/31/86) to those public libraries requesting them, contains a typographical error. The Time Table on page 2 should read "April 18, 1986 - Application due at Montana State Library." Further questions may be answered by John Thomas at the State Library. (444-3115)

The Continuing Education Committee of the Montana Library Association is preparing a calendar of library events from June, 1986 - December 1987. It will be available at the convention in Kalispell for $3.00.

April 1986 will be the Second Annual National School Library Media Month. Sponsored by the American Assoc. of School Librarians, the celebration begins the 1st with a 10:30 a.m. local time nationwide "Read-In". This year's theme is "Where Learning Never Ends -- the School Library Media Center".

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